

Newsom's Mill Bridge
Spanning Harpeth River on Newsom's Station Road
Nashville vicinity
Davidson County
Tennessee

HAER No. TN-15

HAER
TENN,
19-NASH.V,
11-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
Southeast Region
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

HAER
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11-

Newsom's Mill Bridge

HAER No. TN-15

Location: Spanning the Harpeth River on Newsom's Station Road,
Nashville vicinity, Davidson County, Tennessee

Date of Construction: circa 1904

Builder/Designer: Nashville Bridge Company

Present Owner: Metropolitan Government of Nashville-Davidson County
Davidson County Courthouse
Nashville, Tennessee

Present Use: Vehicular bridge

Significance: The Newsom's Mill Bridge is a contributing element of the
National Register-eligible Newsom's Station Historic
District and is significant for its role in local
industry and railroading. The bridge derives additional
significance as a representative example of the pony
Warren truss type and for its association with the
Nashville Bridge Company, one of only two native Tennessee
bridge companies.

Historians: Martha Carver and Margaret Slater
Tennessee Department of Transportation
August 1985

Edited and
Transmitted by: Jean P. Yearby, HAER, 1987

The Newsom's Mill Bridge is located on Newsom's Station Road over the Harpeth River in rural southwestern Davidson County. The bridge is located within the Newsom's Station Historic District, which was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. The district is associated with the Newsom family, early settlers in southwest Davidson County, and contains sites both individually and collectively significant. As a whole, these sites depict the ascent of a pioneering Tennessee family and its involvement in both local industry and railroading.¹

The Newsom's owned property on both sides of the Harpeth River and the need for a bridge probably arose early in the nineteenth century. In 1832, County Court Minutes mention the question of repairing or building a new bridge at Newsoms,² so it is known that a bridge existed before that time. In 1886, a wooden bridge was constructed over the river to replace the earlier structure.³ For the construction of the substructure, the county chose the locally quarried and handdressed limestone. Around 1904, the wooden bridge was replaced by a three-span low steel truss bridge fabricated by the Nashville Bridge Company.⁴ The beautifully-constructed 1886 stone pier and abutments were retained. Standing today (1985), the bridge appears much as it did in 1904.

The Newsom's Mill Bridge is significant as a historic crossing associated with the settlement of the Newsom's Station community, with local industry, and with local railroading. It also derives significance as a representative example of the pony Warren truss type and for its association with the Nashville Bridge Company. Organized in 1902, the Nashville Bridge Company was one of only two native Tennessee bridge companies that specialized in the erection of truss bridges.

The ca. 1904 bridge is comprised of three spans; each a pony Warren truss with hip verticals. The three truss spans are rivet connected; one is 59 feet in length and the other two are 60 feet in length. The curb-to-curb width is 11 feet, and the out-to-out width is 12 feet. The bridge sits on an 1886 limestone block substructure. Of steel construction, the bridge has top chords and end posts which are composed of channels. The bottom chords are angles with stay plates, the diagonals are angles with batten, and the posts are angles with lacing. The floor system has steel stringers and floor beams supporting a concrete deck. Decorative features include the beautiful masonry substructure and the lattice handrailing.

¹ "Newsom's Station Historic District National Register Nomination Form."
Davidson County, Tennessee

² Davidson County Court Minutes. Tennessee State Library of Archives,
Nashville, Tennessee

³ Ibid.

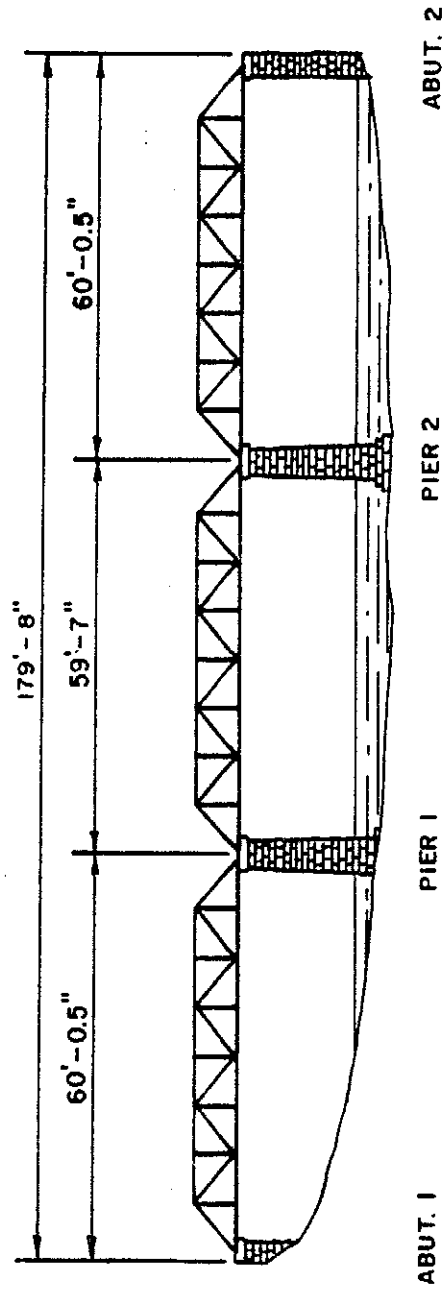
⁴ Ibid.

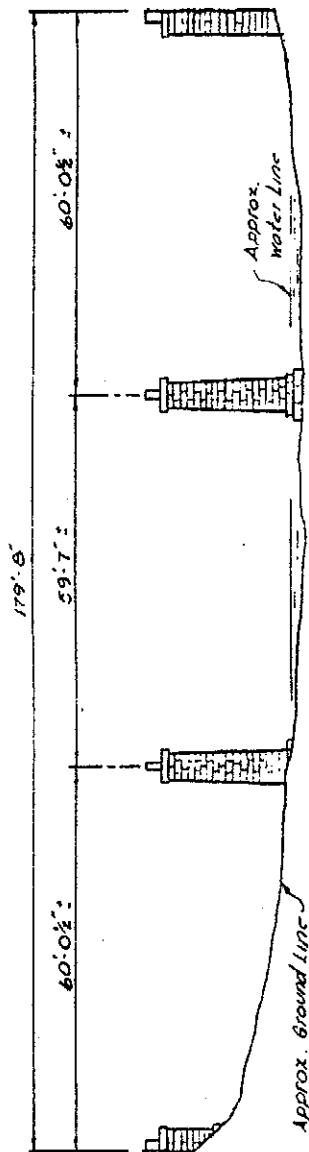
Newsom's Mill Bridge
HAER No. TN-15
(Page 3)

Additional Sources

Tennessee Historical Commission Files
Tennessee Department of Transportation Bridge Survey Files

NEWSOM'S MILL BRIDGE
ELEVATION
NEWSOM'S STATION HISTORIC DISTRICT
DAVIDSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE





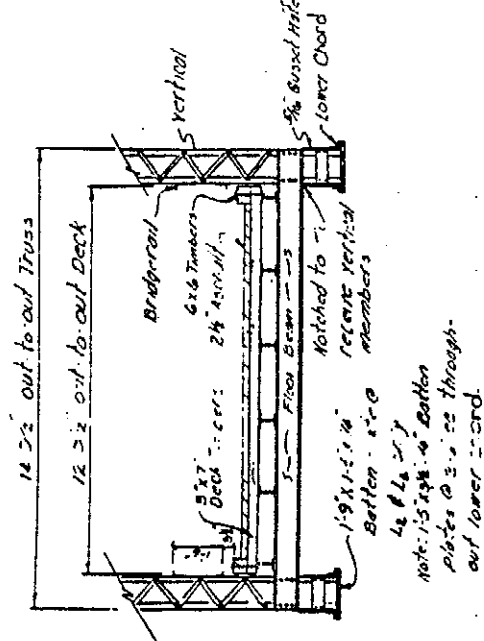
Section Along E of Bridge
1"=20'



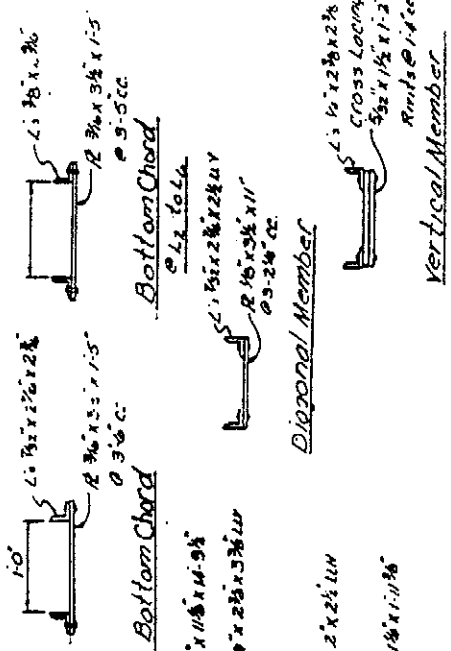
Flow

Plan
1"=20'

Layout of Bridge
Bridge No. 19-D981-2.00
Over Harpeth River
Davidson County
Sheet 1 of 4

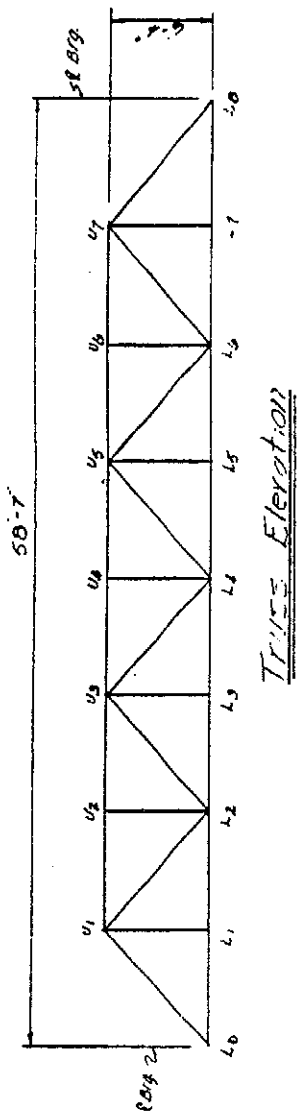


Section @ Right & to E. Bridge



Truss Details
Bridge No. 19-D981-200
Over Harpeth River
Dandson County

Sheet 2 of 4

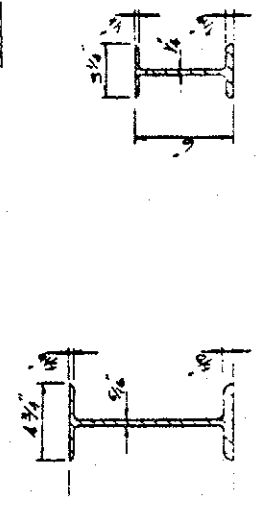


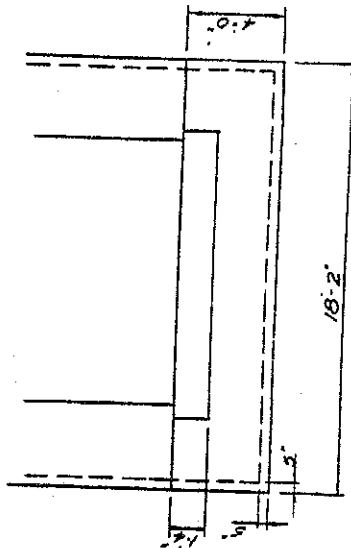
Member	Length	Area	Volume
Top Chord	14'-2"	14'-2"	14'-2"
Bottom Chord	14'-2"	14'-2"	14'-2"
Diagonal Member	1'-5 1/2" x 1'-5"	1'-5 1/2" x 1'-5"	1'-5 1/2" x 1'-5"
Vertical Member	1'-5 1/2" x 1'-5"	1'-5 1/2" x 1'-5"	1'-5 1/2" x 1'-5"

Framing Plan

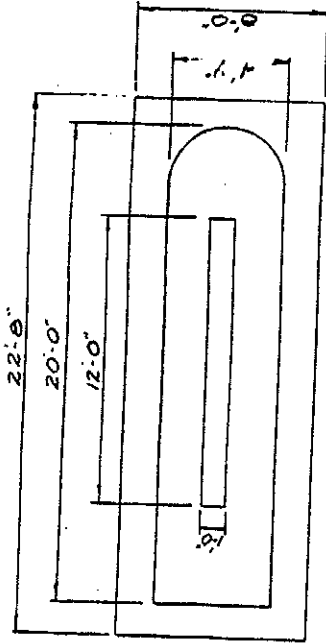


Handrail Lattice
Bridge Rail
(1'-5 1/2" between cross truss)





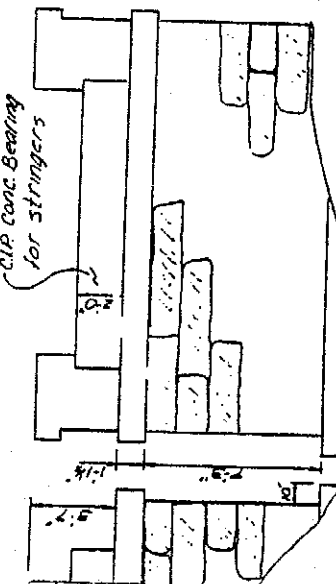
Plan of Abutment No. 1



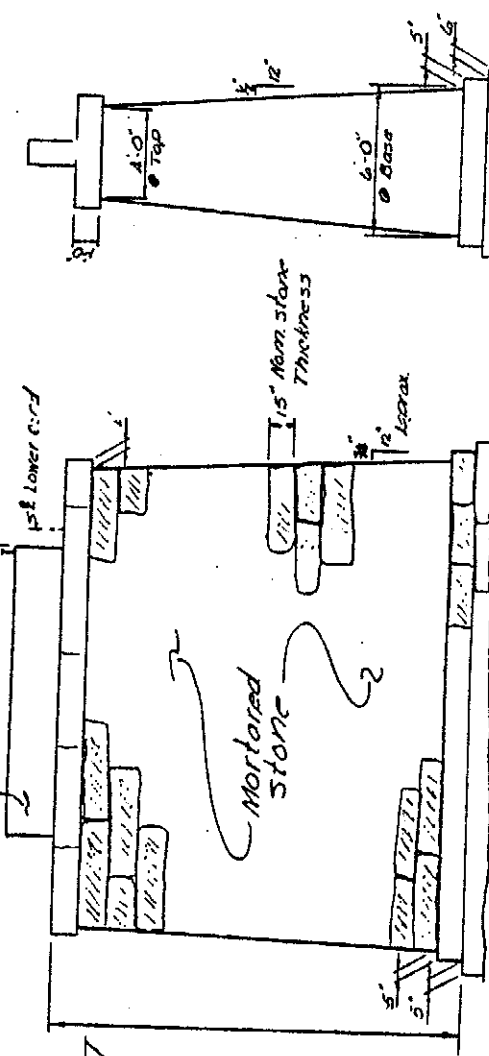
Plan of Piers

CIP Conc. Bearing for Stringers

1st Lower Cord



Elevation of Abutment No. 1



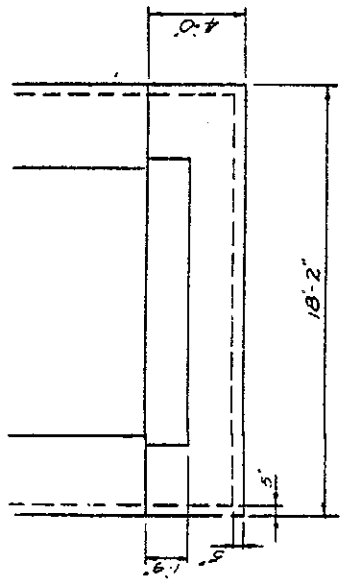
Elevation of Piers

End Elevation

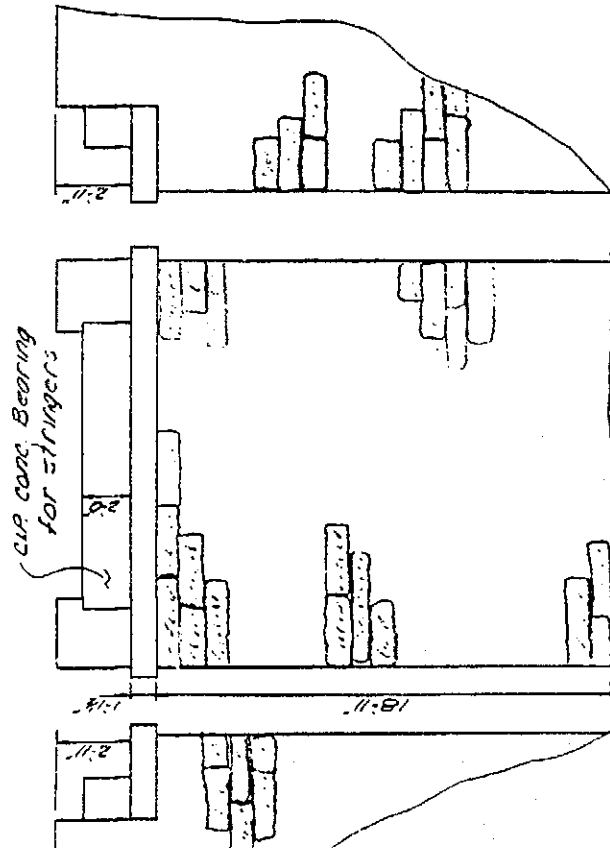
Substructure Details
Bridge No. 19-D981-2.00
Over Harpeth River
Davidson County

Sheet 9 of 4

Substructure Details
 Bridge No. 19-D981-2.00
 Over Harpeth River
 Davidson County
 sheet 4 of 4



Plan of Abutment No. 2



Note: Wings Battered 3:12.
 Front face Battered 3:12

Elevation of Abutment No. 2